

February 28, 2012

To: Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and  
Government Operations  
From: Sen. Glenn Grothman  
Re: Senate Bill 255

Under current law, the Secretary of State is required to set a publication date for new Acts within ten working days after the date of enactment. The Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) then publishes the Act on that date, and it is only then that the Act becomes law.

The date of enactment is defined by statute as “approval by the governor, passage over the governor's veto or failure of the governor to act on it.” In other words, a bill has been through the entire legislative process, has been approved by both houses, and has (most likely) been signed by the governor. The people's will has been done.

This ten-day cushion of time given the Secretary of State is an arbitrary amount of time that has nothing to do with enacting the will of the people. In fact, it delays the will of the people unnecessarily, and gives the Secretary of State the arbitrary power to speed Acts into law or delay them, depending on his/her whim.

This bill, Senate Bill 255, does away with this unnecessary provision and directs the LRB to publish each Act on the day after the day of enactment.